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and wherein the position of the common holding device is changed in a plane defined by the supporting members.

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3. (AS TWICE AMENDED) An X-ray device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the supporting device is constructed and connected to the holding device in such a manner that the common holding device with the X-ray source and the X-ray detector can be positioned completely as desired.

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5. (AS TWICE AMENDED) An X-ray device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the supporting device is connected to the holding device by way of a hinge that permits rotation 360 degrees about an axis.

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11. (AS NEW) The X-ray device of claim 1, wherein the common holding device is rigid, such that the distance between the X-ray source and the X-ray detector and the orientation of both elements relative to one another are invariable.

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12. (AS NEW) The X-ray device of claim 2, wherein the serial manipulator is controlled by software.

13. (AS NEW) The X-ray device of claim 6, wherein the distance between the X-ray source and the X-ray detector can be changed.

14. (AS NEW) The X-ray device of claim 8, wherein emergency braking is initiated when the distance between the moving parts and the object to be examined falls below a safety threshold.

15. (AS NEW) The X-ray device of claim 10, wherein the mechanical contact sensors produce a signal upon contact with the object to be examined.

16. (AS NEW) The X-ray device of claim 8, wherein the means for monitoring the distance include a separate video system to continuously monitor the motion of the X-ray source and the X-ray detector.